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STATE OF COLORADO



Roy Romer
Governor

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Executive Director

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EG&G
ROCKY FLATS PLANT
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and
environment of the people of Colorado

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DATE

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DIST.	LTR	ENC
BENEDETTI, R.L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BENJAMIN, A.		
BERMAN, H.S.		
CARNIVAL, G.J.		
CORDOVA, R.C.		
CROUCHER, D.W.		
DAVIS, J.G.		
FERRERA, D.W.		
HANNI, B.J.		
HEALY, T.J.		
HEDAHL, T.G.		
HILBIG, J.G.		
IDEKER, E.H.		
KIRBY, W.A.		
KUESTER, A.W.		
LEE, E.M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MANN, H.P.		
MARX, G.E.		
McKENNA, F.G.		
MORGAN, R.V.		
PIZZUTO, V.M.		
POTTER, G.L.		
RILEY, J.H.		
SANDLIN, N.B.		
SATTERWHITE, D.G.		
SCHUBERT, A.L.		
SETLOCK, G.H.		
SHEPLER, R.L.		
SULLIVAN, M.T.		
SWANSON, E.R.		
WILKINSON, R.B.		
WILSON, J.M.		
ZANE, J.O.		

300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. Laboratory Building
Denver, Colorado 80222-1530 4210 E. 11th Avenue
Phone (303) 692-2000 Denver, Colorado 80220-3716
(303) 691-4700

January 5, 1993

Mr. Richard J. Schassburger
Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Plant
P. O. Box 928
Golden, Colorado 80402-0928

Re: Solar Evaporation Pond (OU-4) Sludge Removal Options

Dear Mr. Schassburger,

On January 4, 1993, the Colorado Department of Health, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division (the Division) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally notified DOE of its failure to comply with IAG milestones to construct and operate the Building 910 flash evaporators, and attendant surge tanks, pursuant to the terms of the OU-4 IM/IRA Decision Document. Delays in bringing the evaporators on-line, and other issues, have caused DOE to suspend implementation of the pondcreting process and to investigate other options for the removal and treatment of Solar Evaporation Pond sludges. The Division and EPA request that DOE evaluate the following strategy not identified during the program reassessment meeting held on October 29, 1992:

- o Use of the Building 374 "saltcrete process" for the treatment of Pond 207C brine and redissolved salt. As envisioned, for concentrated brine in pond 207C, the flash evaporation step would be bypassed and the brines would go directly to the salt sprayer. The resulting powder would be containerized until such time as a permanent treatment and disposal are approved. Treatment options could be evaluated in accordance with the LDR FFCA II. Portland cement would not be added to form saltcrete.
- o Flash evaporation of water from the 207B Ponds in Building 910, or possibly Building 374. Pond 207B water may also prove useful in redissolution of salts in Pond 207C.
- o Consolidation and covering of silts and other debris from Pond 207C and sludge from the 207B ponds in a re-lined 207B pond (possibly B-South) pending an approved treatment and disposal remedy. Temporary transfer of sludge to an adjacent pond during relining of one of the B ponds, would be anticipated.

DOE should perform a fatal-flaws analysis on this strategy. If viable, DOE should then proceed to a detailed analysis of implementation requirements.

Reviewed for Addressee
Corres. Control RFP

1-12-93 *Ci*
DATE BY

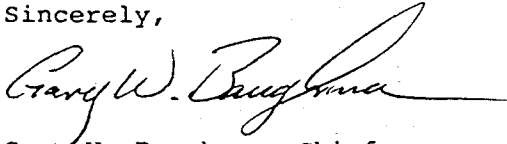
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Upon completion of the fatal-flaws analysis, EPA and CDH should receive a detailed briefing of finalized plans to empty the ponds. Although we understand the issues confronting DOE regarding the ultimate disposal of sludge or treated product, our primary concern and objective is to eliminate the solar ponds as continuing sources of contamination as quickly as practicable.

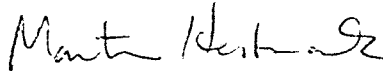
To avoid further delays, DOE should conduct concurrent analysis of the various options and present written findings to the Division and EPA no later than March 1, 1993.

Please address any questions to Harlen Ainscough of the Division at 692-3337 or Arturo Duran of EPA at 294-1080.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Baughman, Chief
Facilities Section
Hazardous Waste Control Program
Colorado Department of Health



Martin Hestmark, Manager
Rocky Flats Project
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Daniel S. Miller, AGO
Jackie Berardini, CDH-OE
James K. Hartman, DOE
Frazer Lockhart, DOE
~~Ed Lee, EG&G~~
Fred Dowsett, CDH